All the above measures are likely to be completed progressively by March, 1996.

In the case of VSP, all the necessary measures have already been taken.

Mining projects in Visakhapatnam

2951. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY.

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mining Development Corporation (NMDC) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Rare Earth and the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation to form a joint venture company for undertaking and executing a new mining project near Vizag in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects to be executed indicating inter alia the capital outlay, involved equity share of the participating companies, the works to be executed and period of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) and the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) to form a joint venture company for taking up exploitation of the Beach Sand Deposit near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh through establishment of a Sand Processing Unit for separation of the constituent minerals and further to set up downstream industries based on the minerals derived. Details of projects to be executed by the proposed joint venture company, estimated cost and period of completion, etc. would be known only on availabilty of the Techno-economic Feasibility Report and equity participation decided thereafter.

Supply of Rails by Bhilai Steel Plant

2952. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant has been unable to supply quality rails to the Railways;

(b) if so, the quantity ordered by the Railways in each of the preceding three years and to what extent the supplies lagged behind, with reasons;

(c) the steps taken to augment the supplies; and

(d) whether the Railways have threatened to import the rails and the effect thereof on the Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Bhilai Steel Plant is supplying quality rails to the Railways as per the commitment.

(b) The commitment for the supply of rails to Railways and the actual quantity despatched during each of the last 3 years is as under:—

	Commitment (Tonnes)	Actual Supply (Tonnes)	Fulfilment (%)
1991-92	355000	358596	101.0
1992-93	360000	354591	98.5
1993-94 . . .	405000	412874	101.9
TOTAL:	1120000	1126061	100.5